

# Bond levy needed to rectify problems in Camas Library

Editor's note: On Nov. 3 voters in Camas will be asked to consider passage of a \$5.95 million city facilities bond measure. The following article is a review of one component that makes up the city's proposal.

Square footage is not the problem currently facing the Camas Public Library — it's the building's design. Cindy Gibbon, Camas Librarian, said growth and problems not adequately addressed due to lack of funding during a remodel in 1975, make the library a dated and problem-filled facility.

By bringing the facility up to desired standards, the city has projected the cost for remodel of the library would be approximately \$1.19 million of the \$5.95 million bond proposal.

Like the other components of the proposal, including the police and fire departments and city hall, a preliminary building design has been drawn by Sera Architects, advisors to the city on the facilities plan.

The preliminary design would place the public-service aspects of the library on the first floor, while meeting rooms, work space and work areas would be on the second floor. Currently, the

court facilities and fire marshal's office are located on the second floor. They would be moved over into the remodeled city hall, under the proposed plan.

While the exterior of the building would largely remain the same, much of the interior would change in structural look. The main entrance to the library would be located on Northeast Fourth Avenue facing the other city facilities. Gibbon said the entrance would take advantage of the proposed extension of the tree-lined downtown mall.

Those going to the library would enter into a lobby with stairs leading to the second floor on the right and restroom facilities and an elevator on the left. The lobby would make it possible to secure the main floor during the evening hours while still providing access to the public meeting rooms on the second floor, Gibbon said.

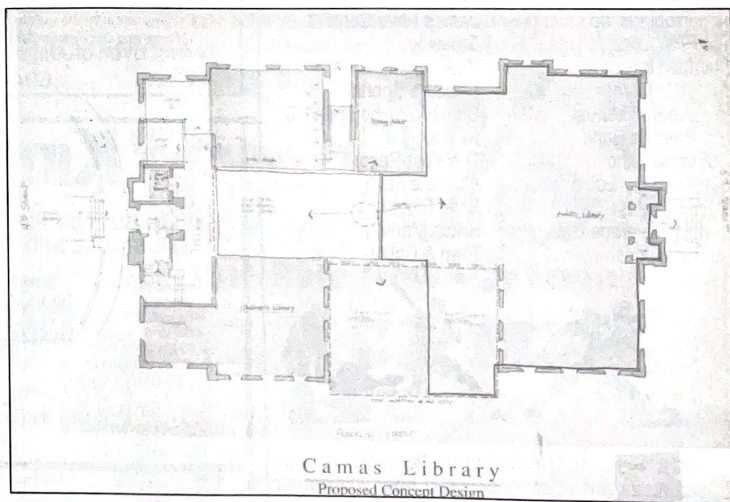
Walls in the library would be removed where possible to provide more of an open look. "This allows a way to get a lot better usage of the square footage available," she said.

Other proposed ideas include removal of the current art gallery, which

is on a level just above the main library but not on the second floor. By eliminating the gallery, the ceiling over that portion of the library could be removed. The windows in the current art gallery would then be above the main library, allowing for more natural lighting. The current main entrance to the library would be expanded into the existing east-entry courtyard.

In addition to providing more space, the proposed remodel would solve some current problems that would likely need to be addressed in the near future, Gibbon said. Wiring in the building is not up to city code and will eventually have to be redone. The building's flat roof has had continual problems with leakage and will eventually have to be redesigned and asbestos problems in the building will also have to be rectified. Gibbon said the city, to stay in compliance with handicap compliance laws, must also work to update the building for access and usage.

"These are projects we're going to have to address anyway," Gibbon said. "The bond would allow us to take care of these problems and address growth at the same time."



AS PART of the City of Camas' \$5.95 million bond proposal, scheduled to be voted upon by local residents Nov. 3, approximately \$1.19 million will be used to remodel the Camas Public Library. This architect's conceptual drawing details the library's first floor plan.